

Steve Westly *California State Controller*



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"The Check Is In The Mail"

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE ISSUES PAYMENTS **DELAYED BY BUDGET STALEMATE**

Sacramento, August 13, 2003 – California State Controller Steve Westly says his office has issued all payments that were delayed by this year's budget stalemate. "I am delighted to say 'the check is in the mail' because our schools, colleges and child care centers rely on state funds," Westly said.

The State began this fiscal year on July 1 without a budget in place. Until the Governor signed the budget on August 2, Controller Westly could not issue certain funding for schools, daycare centers, transportation projects, vendors and some state workers.

"People are suffering from the budget axe, and this delay added insult to injury. We got the checks in the mail quickly, so service providers can keep the doors open," Westly said.

The following payments held up during the 33-day budget stalemate have now been issued:

- Childcare (Stage 3) \$284 million
- Community Colleges \$169.4 million
- Highway Users Tax \$ 108 million
- Legislative payroll \$6.9 million

The Controller's Office is now processing payments for vendors who could not be paid during the budget stalemate. Since the stalemate only lasted one month, and since vendors typically bill at month's end, there should be minimal impact.

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